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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T [redacted] 25X1

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	[redacted] 25X1
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[redacted]

1. Upon graduation, new physicians receive their assignment and cannot refuse the post given them. They can request a special post after a minimum period of two years of regularly assigned service. The government determines the length of time a new physician must serve at a particular post. The new physicians must work six hours per day in the institutes to which they are assigned. They are permitted to carry out their private practice only during those hours in which they are not working for the government. 25X1

2. Apart from the more renowned physicians who have their own private clientele, the great majority of physicians cannot hope to have a private practice because the mass of the people are not economically able to afford their own private physician.

3. The so-called private practice of most physicians is carried out in the regional dispensaries during their free hours. Patients going to these dispensaries do not pay for the visit or the medical care received in cash, but rather by means of a certificate on which the treatment given is recorded, and the patient keeps one portion of the certificate and the attending physician the other. At the end of the month, the physician turns over to the medical office at which he is registered all the certificates in his possession and obtains a payment for treatment given based on a government rate schedule.

4. Inspite of the fact that the state nationalized the entire health organization and greatly increased the availability of facilities for mass use, the health situation is not satisfactory. The people are able to recover fairly easily and without great expense from light ailments since all medical care for workers is free. Furthermore, workers are given their full salary for the first six months they are absent from work and half their salary for the remaining period.

5. The shortage of drugs, such as penicillin, streptomycin, blood plasma, and other modern discoveries of the medical profession, and the superficiality of the therapy given make it difficult for the patient to recover from more serious ailments. Tuberculosis, scurvy, tumors, lymphatic diseases, and rickets are especially widespread. Infant mortality is very high and exceeds by 10 percent the rate prior to World War II.

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6. The low salaries cannot take care of the physicians' needs, does not allow them to improve professionally, and takes away from them any humanitarian spirit they may have had. Their pay is equal to that of ordinary government workers and in many cases is lower than that of manual workers. Rates of pay for physicians are as follows:

   a. 600 leva per month for ordinary physicians;

   b. 800 leva per month for specialists; and

   c. 1,000 leva per month for hospital directors.

7. The "Narodna Republika" (People's Republic) Hospital, formerly "Aleksandrovska" Hospital, on Totleben Boulevard in Sofia includes the following departments:

   a. Medical;

   b. Surgical;

   c. Pathological;

   d. Ears, Nose, and Throat;

   e. Skin and Veneral Diseases; and

   f. Infectious Diseases.

8. The hospital, which is directed by Dr Asen Kiurchiev (?), has a capacity for about 6,000 persons. [redacted] hospital physicians: 25X1

   a. Markov (fnu), nose and throat specialist;

   b. Boev (fnu), psychiatrist;

   c. Sakhachiev (fnu), psychiatrist;

   d. Sarankov (fnu), psychiatrist;

   e. Balabanov (fnu), venereal diseases specialist; and

   f. Khristov (fnu), skin specialist.

   The hospital has modern medical instruments manufactured in Czechoslovakia and in the USSR. It was expanded and modernized in 1950.

9. The "Narodna" (People's) Hospital, formerly Queen Klementina Hospital, is located about one kilometer north of the main railroad station in Sofia and has a capacity of about 200 beds.

10. A good urban hospital is located on Slivnitsa Boulevard in Sofia in the vicinity of the industrial section of the city. It has a capacity of 400 beds and includes surgery, skin and venereal diseases, and internal diseases sections.

11. The "Maychin Dom" (Maternity Home) with about 2,000 beds is located on Botev Boulevard in Sofia. Dubrinov (fnu) is the director and Kozhukharova (fnu) is a physician there. A workers' hospital with 1,200 beds is located in the Kuluzhite section of Sofia; a sanatorium with about 600 beds and directed by Dr Khadzhi Ivanov is located in the vicinity of Knyazhevo near Sofia; the "Iskrez" Sanatorium with about 800 beds is located in Svoge, Sofia Okoliya; and a sanatorium for mental diseases with about 250 beds and directed by Dr Zlatev Antonov (fnu) is located in Slatina near Sofia.

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